

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

HS6E

Unit 6W

Alternative E: Hitler and the Origins of the Second World War, 1933–1941

Friday 22 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6E.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and coherently and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part (c).

Answer **all** questions.

- 1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A On 12 March 1938 German troops entered the Republic of Austria, with bands playing and decorated with flowers. The next day, Hitler announced the annexation of Austria to Germany. Yet not a shot was fired: it was a parade, not an invasion. Hitler had not planned the events – Schuschnigg's desperate call for a plebiscite produced a crisis which Hitler did not expect. He was compelled to improvise. The danger of a European war arising out of the crisis was almost nil. Virtually the only possibility of conflict would have arisen from Austrian resistance to the German occupation.

5

Adapted from P BELL, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*, 1997

Source B Adapted from a speech by Hitler to his military leaders on 22 August 1939

Essentially, all depends on me because of my political talents. No one will ever again have the confidence of the whole German people as I have. There will probably never again in the future be a man with more authority than I have. My existence is a factor of great value.

- 5 The announcement of the non-aggression pact with Russia will come as a bombshell. The West had hoped that Russia would become our enemy, but they did not reckon with my great strength of purpose. Personal contact with Stalin is established, and von Ribbentrop will conclude the treaty. Now Poland is in the position in which I want her.

Source C

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- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the views expressed in **Source A** about the annexation of Austria in March 1938. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of Hitler's role in German foreign policy? *(10 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

'In his foreign policy in the years 1933 to 1939, Hitler never wanted to take the initiative; he liked others to do it for him.'
Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source: C: S LEE, *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, Routledge, 1998. Reproduced by permission of Thomson Publishing Services.

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